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(54) Exit signalling device

(57) A beacon includes an illuminable exit sign of the type used in cinemas and the like. The exit sign contains a smoke detector and an audible alarm.

In use the beacon is fitted above an exit from a building or craft, and arranged so that when the smoke detector is activated by smoke, for example in the event of a fire in the building, the alarm will sound and will guide people towards that exit even if the exit is obscured by smoke.

SIGNALLING DEVICE

This invention relates to a signalling device.

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Buildings, (such as cinemas, concert halls, and theatres) aircraft, ships and the like are provided with a number of doors, exits and emergency exits, which for the purposes of this specification will be referred to as exits. These exits are indicated by signs such as 'emergency exit', 'fire exit' or the like which are placed on or above the exit. One problem with such signs is that they can be difficult to see in low light and in the event of a fire in the building they can become obscured by smoke.

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It is an object of the present invention to alleviate the above-mentioned disadvantages.

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Thus according to the present invention there is provided a signalling device for indicating the location of an exit, the device comprising means to generate sound, said means being located adjacent to

an exit and being operable to give an audible indication of the location of said exit.

5 An advantage of the present invention is that the signal can guide people towards an exit even if that exit is obscured by smoke in the event of a fire. A further advantage is that the signal can guide people, whose eyes may be adversely affected by smoke from the fire, to the exit.

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In one embodiment the signal is located inside an exit sign and includes a smoke detector to which the means to generate sound is operably connected, and the signal is arranged to generate sound when said smoke
15 detector is activated by smoke.

In an alternative embodiment the signal is located inside an exit sign and the means to generate sound is operably connected to an alarm button. The alarm
20 button may be a "break glass" type of fire alarm button.

In a further alternative embodiment the means to generate sound is operably connected to a smoke detector, the smoke detector being located distant from the exit.

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In another aspect of the present invention there is provided an illuminable exit sign containing sound generating means operably connected to a smoke detector.

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As an example only a specific embodiment of the invention will now be described.

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A beacon includes an illuminable exit sign of the type used in cinemas and the like. The exit sign contains a smoke detector and an audible alarm.

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In use the beacon is fitted above an exit from a building or craft, and arranged so that when the smoke detector is activated by smoke, for example in the event of a fire in the building the alarm will sound and will guide people towards that exit even if the exit is obscured by smoke.

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A signalling device for indicating the location of an exit, the device comprising means to generate sound, said means being located adjacent to the exit and being operable to give an audible indication of the location of said exit.
- 10 2. A signalling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means to generate sound is located inside an exit sign and wherein the device includes a smoke detector to which the means to generate sound is operably connected, the signalling device being arranged to
15 generate sound when said smoke detector is activated by smoke.
- 20 3. A signalling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means to generate sound is located inside an exit sign and the means to generate sound is operably connected to an alarm button.

4. A signalling device as obtained in claim 1 wherein
the means to generate sound is located inside an exit
sign and is operably connected to a smoke detector,
the smoke detector being located distant from the
5 exit.

5. An illuminable exit sign containing sound
generating means operably connected to a smoke
detector, the arrangement being such that, in use, the
10 sound generating means produces sound when the smoke
detector is activated.